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UNCLAS DJIBOUTI 000398

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STATE FOR AF, AF/E, AND EAP
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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [EAID](#) [CH](#) [DJ](#)

SUBJECT: CHINA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO DJIBOUTI

REF: DJIBOUTI 394

1. (U) Shen Jiangkuan, China's new envoy in Djibouti, presented his credentials March 15 to President Ismail Omar Guelleh. In his credentialling remarks, Shen described Djibouti as a country which has contributed to the promotion of peace and development in the region. He said Djibouti has achieved stability, national unity and economic growth and has become an "oasis of peace" in the Horn of Africa. Shen looked ahead to strong Sino-Djiboutian regional cooperation.

2. (U) Responding, President Guelleh assured the people of China of Djibouti's unwavering support for a single, indivisible China. He gave China "first place" status in the world in terms of economic growth, conferring on China a "powerful weight" in international affairs.

3. (U) BIO-DATA: According to his official biography, Shen Jiangkuan was born in 1946. His diplomatic career began in 1972 at China's embassy in Paris, where he remained until 1975. He was then appointed Attache at the Embassy of China in Niger. From 1983 to 1987, he occupied the position of Attache and Third Secretary in Niger and then Deputy Director in the Information Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in China. From 1987-92, he served as First Secretary at China's embassy in Morocco and from 1992-98 was

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head of Management at the Foreign Affairs Bureau of the Department of Diplomacy in the MFA in China. From 1998 to 1999, he was Deputy Director of the Department of Administration in the MFA. In 1999, Shen was appointed China's Ambassador to Rwanda and in 2004, Ambassador to Djibouti. He is married and has a daughter. Shen speaks only French and Chinese.

4. (U) Comment: Ambassador has met Shen. He is engaging, jovial, and appeared keen to establish a good rapport. Since 1983, China has provided substantial economic assistance to Djibouti, with high-visibility projects such as stadiums, housing, sanitation equipment and even the construction of Djibouti's MFA building. (see reftel) End comment.
RAGSDALE